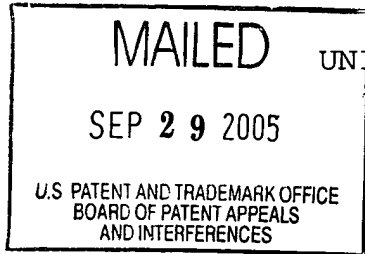


The opinion in support of the decision being entered today was not written for publication in a law journal and is not binding precedent of the Board.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

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Ex parte DONALD C.D. CHANG, WILLIAM W. MAYFIELD,  
JOHN I. NOVAK, III and FRANK A. TAORMINA

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Application No. 09/497,865

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ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL

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This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on June 17, 2005. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below:

On June 29, 2004, an Examiner's Answer was mailed. A review of the Examiner's Answer reveals that there is no evidence that an appeals conference was conducted by the examiner. According to the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 1208 (8th ed., Rev. 2, May 2004):

On the examiner's answer, below the primary examiner's signature, the word "Conferees:" should be included, followed by the typed or printed names of the

Application No. 09/497,865

other two appeal conference participants. These two appeal conference participants must place their initials next to their name. This will make the record clear that an appeal conference has been held.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the application is electronically returned to the Examiner for taking corrective action regarding the appeals conference, and for such further action as may be appropriate.

It is important that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences be informed promptly of any action affecting the status of the appeal (i.e., abandonment, issue, reopening prosecution).

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

By: 

DALE M. SHAW

Program and Resource Administrator  
(571) 272-9797

DMS/clm/dm

Application No. 09/497,865

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